ancy between the representations made by Mr. Jefferson, as he recalled them forty years afterward, and the real facts of the case. With a very remarkable insistence, Mr. Jefferson persisted in the view that as a practical man Mr. Henry was of very little account in the convention, for he again says "that at the beginning of this convention, when matters in a general way were being considered, Mr. Henry was very conspicuous, but as soon as they came to specific matters, to sober reasoning and solid argument, he had the good sense to perceive that his declamation, however excellent in its proper place, had no weight at all in such an assembly as that of cool-headed, respecting, judicial men. He ceased, therefore, in a great necessity to take part in the business." Here, again, the records of the convention indicate that on every important committee Mr. Henry had a place, even on the committees that were to address themselves to matters most practical and business-like. While he was a member of this convention he was appointed as commander-in-chief of the forces of Virginia by a convention in session at Richmond, Va., and Washington was appointed commander-in-chief of the forces of the united colonies. Mr. Henry was commissioned as colonel of the First Regiment of Virginia and commander-in-chief of all the forces to be raised for the protection and defense of the colony.

It was in this capacity as commander-in-chief of the forces of Virginia that Mr. Henry met with the only real humiliation of his long career. For reasons that have never been shown to have been inspired by any specific thing in Mr. Henry's military career, it was concluded that he was not altogether a capable commander. Colonel William Woodford was his subordinate and the commander of the Second Regiment. When an expedition was to be sent against Lord Dunmore at Norfolk, the military committee put Colonel Woodford in command. Mr. Henry was exceedingly chagrined at this unmistakable slight, and when, afterwards, Colonel Woodford began to address all communications direct to the Committee of Safety rather than through his nominal commander-in-chief, he was further humiliated; and still more abject his humiliation when it was decided to raise a larger body of troops in Virginia, necessitating the office of a brigadier-general, a commission was made out to Mr. Henry as only colonel of the first Virginia battalion, whereas by the regular order of promotion he should have been commissioned as brigadier-general. Immediately Mr. Henry resigned his commission and retired from military life.

However patriotic and sound may have been the judgment of the authorities touching Mr. Henry's military capacity, it seems only fair to say that that judgment was reached by an all too insufficient trial of Mr. Henry in the field. He was allowed no opportunity to demonstrate his capacity, whether small or large.

At the close of his brief military experience he returned to his home in Hanover, in March, 1776. The year before his wife had died, leaving six motherless children, and Mr. Henry found great satisfaction in being left alone with them, if only for a brief season. In May he was called from his seclusion to meet with the great convention at Williamsburg. Matters were hastening toward a crisis. It was felt on every hand that the next step must be a formal dissolution of all relations with England. For the first time there seems to have been hesitancy on the part of Mr. Henry. He believed well enough that separation was inevitable, but he felt that before the last step was taken other preliminary matters should be assured and arranged. He wanted to be sure of the posture of France and Spain and of the united action of all the colonies. He was, however, soon won over to the advocacy of immediate action. Perhaps this was due to a letter he had received from Mr. Charles Lee, who importuned him to use his great influence in securing immediate action looking toward final separation. On the 15th day of May, after a prolonged debate, in which Mr. Henry made a most powerful plea for the proposed action, the convention unanimously passed the following resolution:

"That the delegates appointed to represent this colony in general Congress be instructed to propose to that respectable body to declare the united colonies free and independent States, absolved from allegiance to, or dependence upon, the crown or Parliament of Great Britain; and that they give the assent of the colony to such declaration and to whatever measures may be thought proper and necessary by the Congress for the forming foreign alliances and a confederation of the colonies at such time and in the manner as shall to them seem best; provided that the power of forming government for, and the regulations of the internal concerns of, each colony be left to the respective colonial Legislatures."

On the 12th of June the committee reported the Declaration of Rights, expressed in sixteen articles, and which the convention adopted unanimously. This document set forth the great fundamental rights that were to be "the basis and foundation of government in Virginia." Mr. George Mason was the author of the first fourteen articles and Mr. Henry the author of the last two—the last of which was most notable because it was the first formal and official assertion and sanction of the doctrine of religious liberty that had ever been given in Virginia.

As soon as the convention had committed the State to separation, action was taken on the appointment of a committee "to prepare a declaration of rights and such a plan of government as will be most likely to maintain peace and order in the colony and secure substantial and equal liberty to the people." On June the 29th the plan reported, through Mr. Archibald Cary, was adopted. There was an unmistakable conflict between the democratic and aristocratic elements of the convention. The former came off victorious. The last clause of the Constitution provided that a Governor should be elected by the convention to hold office until the next General Assembly should adjourn. When the ballot was taken it was found that Mr. Henry had received sixty votes, Thomas Nelson forty-five votes, and John Page one vote. Mr. Henry was declared accordingly elected first Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mr. Henry entered upon the duties of his office on the 5th of July, 1776. His salary was fixed at £1,000 per year. His elevation to this high office gave cordial and universal satisfaction. From all quarters of the State, and even from other colonies, came congratulations and good wishes. While the Governor's palace, lately vacated by Lord Dunmore, was being renovated and prepared for his reception, Mr. Henry returned for a brief season to his home in Hanover. On his recovery from several weeks' illness, he removed his family to Williamsburg and took up his residence in the Governor's palace. It is said that, greatly to the disappointment of his enemies among the aristocrats, he conducted himself as Governor with great dignity, meeting all the requirements and proprieties of the great office with consummate ease and in most excellent taste.

The scope of this chapter will not permit any detailed account of the remaining years of his life. He was elected Governor three times successively, and doubtless would have been chosen for the fourth time if he had not insisted that he was by the Constitution made ineligible. During the second term as Governor he was married to Miss Dorothea Dandridge, a granddaughter of Alexander Spotswood. Miss Dandridge was by many years the junior of her distinguished husband, but they lived together in great happiness, she proving to be for him during the remainder of his years a most true and loving helpmeet. In 1784 he was again elected Governor. When he removed his family from "Leatherwood," in November, 1784, he took up his residence, not in Williamsburg, but at a place called Salisbury, located on the other side of the James River. In 1786 he declined another election as Governor, and retired to his home, and undertook by the practice of his profession to build up his fortune, which had become impaired.

Nor can there be allowed any minute account of the charge that he aspired to be dictator, or of the suspicion he rested under by reason of his opposition to the adoption of the Federal Constitution by the Virginia Convention. There is no proof that Mr. Henry ever heard of any scheme to make him dictator, or that he ever dreamed of such a preposterous thing. It is not unlikely, as pointed out by Mr. Tyler, that whatever use there was made of the word dictator was simply in the confiding to the Governor enlarged powers in exigencies demanding unusual and prompt action. His opposition to the adoption of the Federal Constitution was due, not to any change or inconsistency in his views, but simply to his strong insistence that certain rights be more clearly defined, and not left for recognition by implication only. No one believed more ardently than he in a strong and fixed federation of the States, but he sought a union based upon a clear definition of rights. For all the qualities that go to make up a great statesman and orator, perhaps in no other part of his life did Mr. Henry ever make so superb a demonstration of power and capacity as in this great convention.

And there can be permitted only a brief word concerning the part he played in securing the amendments to the Constitution, a task to which he addressed all his great powers most assiduously. He had acquiesced in the adoption of the Constitution with the expressed hope that when the defects he had tried to point out were realized they would be removed by amendment. Through his influence, after a long struggle, the Legislature of Virginia asked Congress to call another convention to which the Constitution should be resubmitted. This Congress refused to do, but suffered ten amendments to the Constitution, in which was embodied nearly all of the changes desired by Virginia.

When Mr. Henry was fifty-eight years old, and being possessed of a competency, he resolved that the remainder of his years should be spent in peaceful retirement. In 1795 he settled in Charlotte county, on a country place called "Red Hill," and it was from this place he was carried to his grave. In 1796 the Assembly of Virginia again elected him Governor, but he declined the honor of being Governor of Virginia for the sixth time. Strong effort was made to induce him to come out of his retirement. He declined the appointment offered by Mr. Adams "to be envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the French republic," with full powers to effect a treaty with that republic. He did, however, yield to the importunity of Mr. Washington and others, and allowed himself, after a most picturesque campaign, to be again elected to the General Assembly of Virginia in 1799. He was never permitted to take his seat. Early in June of that year he was seized with a fatal illness called then intussusception, now generally know as appendicitis. His end was quite in keeping with the life he had led, simple and dignified, without confusion or fear. When told of his critical condition, and holding in his hand the desperate dose which was the last resort of his beloved physician, Dr. Cabell, he bowed his head in prayer for his family, his country, and his own soul, and then quietly swallowed the fatal prescription. He lingered only a little while, comforting and reassuring his relatives in their distress, and expressing his thanksgiving for having been permitted to serve his country in so many ways. He passed away, bearing especial witness to the support of the Christian religion, on the 6th of June, 1799.